

(38) *Dryobates macei*. *The Fulvous-breasted Pied Woodpecker*. Fairly common. At first taken to be the Brown-fronted Pied Woodpecker but later checked by the complete red crown of the male and the black crown of the female.

(39) *Dryobates himalayensis*. *The Himalayan Pigmy Woodpecker*. Seen only on one occasion near the Rest House.

(40) *Cyanops asiatica*. *The Blue-throated Barbet*. Common. Heard daily and frequently seen in fruit bearing trees.

(41) *Tockus birostris*. *The Grey Hornbill*. Common in small parties in trees both in cultivation and thick jungle. These birds seemed to be of a clearer grey colour than the brownish grey of plains birds.

(42) *Psittacula krameri*. *The Green Parrakeet*. Fairly common. Small flocks and solos.

(43) *Glaucidium cuculoides*. *The Large Barred Owlet*. Seen on one occasion at 11.00 a.m. in thick jungle in the Koshalia river valley.

(44) *Sarcogyps calvus*. *The King Vulture*. Common—seen daily.

(45) *Gyps himalayensis*. *The Himalayan Griffon*. Common—seen daily.

(46) *Neophron percnopterus*. *The Neophron*. Not very common but seen occasionally.

(47) *Milvus migrans*. *The Common Pariah Kite*. Frequently seen in flight but on some occasions suspected to be *M. m. lineatus*, the Black-eared Kite, but not with any certainty.

(48) *Gallus gallus*. *The Red Jungle Fowl*. Common. Heard daily and frequently seen in parties foraging in the undergrowth or flapping away and wheeling into the nearest cover after being disturbed.

Notable absences from the above list which indicate uncommonness, at any rate in winter in the Koti area, are drongos (a careful watch was kept for the Hair Crested Drongo in particular) shrikes, doves and birds of prey. There is no doubt that the chief interest of the Simla foothills lies in the variety of laughing thrushes and babblers to be found in the undergrowth—if one has the patience to stalk these skulkers.

N. F. FROME,

C.I.E., D.F.C., M.SC.

15.—NOTES ON A FEW BIRDS FROM THE SOUTH OF THE TINNEVELLY DISTRICT.

(The numbers refer to Baker and Inglis's *The Birds of S. India*).

60. *Geocichla citrina citrina* (Orange-headed Ground Thrush). Single birds have been seen in November 1931, 1937, 1944, and in March 1943 one stayed in the vicinity of our compound for about a week.

235. *Clamator coromandus* (Red-winged Crested Cuckoo). Single birds have been seen in November 1936, December 1944, February and March 1943. Usually they stayed several days, and the most recent one was very tame, flying in and out of verandahs of several houses.

258. *Ceyx tridactylus tridactylus* (Indian Three-toed Kingfisher). This has been noted by mountain streams not ten miles away on 7th November 1943.

I thought I saw this bird near my house in the morning, and later in the day many of us were able to watch it on a tree beside the verandah. It flew down on to the ground after (?) ants several times. It spent at least seven hours near my house.

311. *Falco chiquera chiquera* (Red-headed Merlin). This is often seen flying over our compound. A nest with young was found on 21st April 1944 on a palmyra tree.

219. *Lynx torquilia torquilia* (European Wryneck). This was observed on 12th February 1943 feeding on the ground at the foothills, a few miles from here. It was captured and lived with us for a number of days and quickly became tame. It ate mostly black ants.

389. *Rallina superciliaris superciliaris* (Banded Crake). On 13th November 1931 and 30th October 1937 specimens of this bird have been caught inside our houses, having presumably wandered in from the garden in the dusk. In each case we released them in thick grass cover and they were not seen again.

394. *Gallinula chloropus parvifrons* (Indian Moorhen). This is seen—several pairs—in a tank near here every year between November and March. There is a good deal of cover when the tank is full. Where they go to when the tank dries up, I do not know.

431. *Sterna fuscata infuscata* (Sooty Tern). This was found, obviously unwell, in our garden on 24th April 1941. We kept it and fed it on small fish. It seemed to be recovering, and would fly 10-20 yards to take a fish from the hand of the one who fed it, when he called. But after about three weeks it died. There had been no severe storm at the time it was found, to account for its coming thirty miles inland.

451. *Himantopus himantopus himantopus* (Black-winged Stilt). In December 1934 and January 1935 a single bird and a pair respectively were seen, feeding at a tank edge.

508. *Ibis leucocephalus leucocephalus* (Painted Stork). On 21st April 1944 I visited the nesting colony of this bird in a village called Kunthakulam (mentioned by Mr. C. E. Rhenius in *J.B.N.H.S.*, vol. xvii, p. 806). It is about ten miles from here. There were about 200 nests of Painted Stork, not more than ten Spot-billed Pelican, and many Night Heron and Little Egret. The nests were built on *Azadirachta indica*, *Thespesia populnea*, *Delonix elata*, and one large *Ficus* sp. Some were on quite low trees. The birds were fishing in all the tanks and rice-fields around and bringing food to the young. Many of the parent birds stood with out-stretched wings to shelter the young in the nests, which were without any natural shade. The noise and the smell caused some of the villagers to suggest destroying the nests and driving the birds away some years ago, but the head-men of the village protect them. This colony seems to have existed for 60-70 years at least.

DOHNAVUR (30 miles north of Cape Comorin),

TINNEVELLY DISTRICT,

C. G. WEBB-PEPLOE.

9th February 1945.

16.—ORNITHOSIS, A DISEASE TRANSMITTED BY BIRDS.

The following is reproduced from page 36 of *Time* dated the 8th January 1945.

'ORNITHOSIS'.

'The disease-scare headline of the week was that pigeons carry a virus which can cause virus pneumonia. In the *Journal of the*